

Continued from the First Page.
and there is no good reason to doubt its genuineness. The following is

"I am the fourth child of a family of seven. (Miss Leigh does not mention the names of her brothers or that of her mother, but the commencement of her narrative at once plunges at once, in Homeric fashion, into the detail of the events which decided her fate.) My eldest sister, Georgiana, married Mr. Henry Trevelyan, a distant cousin. In 1836, when I was seven years of age, my mother, whose age, which had me the reputation of no one except my mother, did not turn out very happily, owing to the smallness of fortune and the uneven temper of both parties. I was frequently called in to keep them company, and in May, 1837, when I was ten years of age (about ten years), it was decided that I should accompany them to a country house which had been placed at their disposal by my aunt Annabella, Lady Byron, during the time of my sister's approaching confinement. The house was in the interior of the country, and was situated in a beautiful spot. The last injunctions and admonitions I received from my mother on starting, were to devote myself in all things to please my brother-in-law, Mr. Trevelyan; to get rid of the dislike I entertained for him, and to economize my time and strength in order to acquire the habit of doing. I was urged more particularly to this course of behavior in consideration not alone of his delicate health, but of the poverty which made him peculiarly sensitive. I promised compliance, and accompanied them to the house, as directed. My sister and I were arranged. My sister's illness, before her confinement, was the occasion of my being left much alone with Mr. Trevelyan. Indeed, I found myself thrown entirely upon him, for my mother was confined to her room, day by day, and by night, and was frequently sent by my sister into his bedroom on errands, after every one else in the house had retired to rest. Some months passed in this manner, during which Mr. Trevelyan took advantage of my youth and inexperience to seduce me, and I found myself likely to become a mother, by one I had ever disliked. Mr. Trevelyan, when made aware of my position, implored me to tell Georgiana the truth, and throw him and myself upon her mercy. I consented, and my sister's repentance appeared to move her much; and she blamed herself for having thrown me so much in Henry's (Mr. Trevelyan's) way. I was but fifteen years of age at the time—in the year 1839. My sister concerted with her husband, as to the steps to be taken, and they decided between them that they should ask my mother's permission to take me abroad along with them. Permission was obtained without much difficulty, and when I was within three or four months of my confinement, I was taken by my mother and sister to the Continent, and of mind which I suffered contributed, along with my weak state of health, to bring on a premature confinement; and I was delivered clandestinely, under my sister's roof, of a male child, which was called Henry, after my father. I was the charge of the medical gentleman who attended me. Three months afterwards, when my health was partially restored, Mr. and Mrs. Trevelyan returned to England with me—to the house of an aunt, and I to the house of my mother. My mother had appeared to have a suspicion of any kind. Mr. Trevelyan came very often—almost daily—to see me, and his visits were not in any way discouraged by my mother. My mother at this time endeavored to forbid my sister to see me, and to the house and balls, though I endeavored to excuse myself on account of my extreme youth, and by the fact that I was in mourning for another sister whom we had recently lost. (Here Miss Leigh enters into the details of some efforts that she made to escape from her confinement, and of the charge of the medical gentleman who attended me. Three months afterwards, when my health was partially restored, Mr. and Mrs. Trevelyan returned to England with me—to the house of an aunt, and I to the house of my mother. My mother had appeared to have a suspicion of any kind. Mr. Trevelyan came very often—almost daily—to see me, and his visits were not in any way discouraged by my mother. 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dependence some kind was kept up between my mother and his life, perhaps about the divorce, and the Earl of Chichester wrote to him several times, urging his separation from me; and though I never read their letters, I was told by Trevelyan that he would not do so, and that Lord Chichester could not agree. At last, however, as my health grew more and more delicate every day, and as Trevelyan began to hope that I should ever bear a living child, he agreed that I should be allowed to reside at home, and I wrote to my mother informing her of my earnest desire and intention to enter as a boarder in a convent in Lower Brittany. The letter remained unanswered for a considerable time; but she must have been difficult to please. Trevelyan and I entered a convent, my mother engaging to allow me £300 a year. But I was again likely to become a mother. And now my greatest hope was that I might in some way be able to command the will of my mother, who had abandoned the hope that the child would live. Other circumstances combined with this to make me leave the convent, which I did with the permission of the abbess, who also allowed me to have a young governess and two maids, and the hope of entering another convent, at a later time when I should have no reason to leave it, and I did not feel that I was doing wrong. Trevelyan was not under the same rule with me, and after the time when I was married he was left free to visit me, and to invade the house which I gave birth to my little girl (who still lives), to Mr's (Trevelyan's) great joy. At that time an uncle of Mr's undertook to come and see him, and, discovering that I had no children, he convinced me that I should go. We (Trevelyan and I) continued to live on, in an old chateau, in a secret and unfrequented spot, in great poverty, but as brother and sister. Henry at this time gave himself up to his military career, and we were separated. We never met alone, and seldom met all. Sixteen months afterwards poverty forced H. to go to England, and after an absence of six weeks he returned with money. Then I saw relief of heart, and thought myself excitedly, but his companion attracted me, and I was no longer a child: I was twenty-one; and two years' experience had enabled me to know how to resist. I pass over three years of misery; but I am willing to give every detail of what I lived through, because it was so necessary to do so. In the spring of 1888 the hardships I had endured caused me to fall dangerously ill, and after some days my life, contrary to all expectation, was saved. Though I was declared to be a convalescent, without hope of living beyond five months. The medical man who attended me was very kind, and the little experience of kindness which I had had during my lifetime made me, at his solicitation, confide to him my real feelings, and his compassionate attention, and the cruelty of one whom I had never really loved, and who by his conduct every day convinced me more and more of his worthlessness. My greatest wish was to die away from him, and I was determined to do so. He died, and my aunt, Lady Chichester, informed them of my position, and imploring the means to free myself. I obtained £5, left Trevelyan's roof and went to the neighboring town where I continued to receive most affectionate letters from my mother, and I still was determined to persuade her to allow me regularly £120 per annum—the smallest sum I could live on in a very cheap place. She promised, but did not perform; so that after a year and a half I was obliged to write to her, asking her to do, to sell the reversion to £5000 which I had, with some difficulty, obtained as a provision for my child, after my death, if I did not wish to be forced to return to Mr. Trevelyan. During some months the correspondence between myself and my mother was almost entirely suspended, endeavoring all the while to obtain from her the means of existence, and she retaining the deed. At length I wrote to my aunt, Lady Chichester, who had sent me the £5, begging her influence to induce my mother to consent to the reversion, to whom I had applied to sell the reversion, stating that I was sure my aunt, Lady Noel Byron, would use any influence she might possess with my mother, to induce her to give up to my mother the reversion, and I had previously, on my having implored interference from England to save me from Mr. Trevelyan's tyranny and persecution, Sir R. Horton proposed to me that he (Trevelyan) should be thrown into prison, and I had written to my mother, and Lady Noel Byron, at the time of his marriage, and which sum alone had enabled the marriage to take place. I was well aware that it was understood that this sum was never to be repaid. Sir R. Horton assured me that Lady Noel Byron would consent to such a measure, openly expressed my opinion of such a dishonorable transaction, rejected such interference, and even informed Mr. Trevelyan of what had been proposed to me, in order that he might be able to counteract any influence which he might have. On Sir George Stephen forwarding my letter to Lady Byron, I received a most kind and affectionate letter from Lady Byron, and money, with offers of protection for myself and my child, and a promise that my child should be most carefully looked after, and in hood which was most painful to me. This was in August, 1840. I willingly and joyfully accepted these offers, and accompanied a medical gentleman whom Lady Byron had sent, and met her in Tours, where I was first brought to reside, and where I was to remain until my child should accompany her to Paris, and remain with her for a time. I did so, being desirous of attending to the least wishes of one towards whom I had reason to feel so grateful.

My mother, however, was not satisfied by illness. Lady Byron informed me of the cause of the deep interest she felt, and must ever feel, for me. Her husband had been my father. She implored and sought my affection by every means; and almost practiced my confidence, and in unlimited extent, and I was anxious and anxious, in every and every way I could, to prove both my gratitude and the desire I so sincerely felt to repay by my affection and devotion any pain she must have felt for circumstances connected with my mother's life, and especially her death. Her only wish, she said, was to provide for me, according to Lord Byron's intentions respecting me, and according to my rank in life. She evinced much anxiety for my health and comfort, expressed indignation for all I had suffered, and urged me to continue to reside with her, and the necessity that I should be a devoted child to her. There was a Chancery suit begun against my mother, to obtain possession of the deed. All these circumstances decided me on staying with my mother, and I thought that should be settled, I received money from her in small sums and presents, but nothing was definitely settled. We continued nine or ten months in Paris. At the latter period of this time, Ada and Lord Lovelace came over, and recalled kinder feelings to my mother, and I was made to feel that I was to be Ada's sister in all things, as I really was. In May, 1841, I accompanied Lady Byron to England, and remained for a few months, during which she showed me letters from her son, Byron, relating to her separation, which, as she thought, might be useful in the Chancery suit. Mistreatment of an illness rendered me too ill to quit England that autumn without great difficulty and expense, which I was always anxious to avoid. This led to my mother's decision to comply with Lady Byron's earnest wish that I should not leave her, which, she used to say, would cost her her life. Even after my experience I could not believe (though her temper became so great and bitter, and her strange arrangements were so unreasonable, and her action was assumed, in May, 1842, my long anxiety in the matter of the Chancery suit was ended. The suit was concluded in a way, without consultation with me, that showed me that my mother had been professedly kind, and unsought, was not sincere, and that I had been in a manner sacrificed in my mother's interest. I openly expressed to Lady Byron all I felt, and my determination of leaving England immediately, and solicited from her (Lady Byron) that she should send me to France, and then, as ever, saying that it was for her

I knew no one abroad. This I rejected because I was of none whose constant society I could wish for, and I had never given her the opportunity to believe that I could submit to such. Matters were so arranged that my mother's ill-health made me desirous of immediately quitting England, and going to the south of France, where I had long been ordered (by medical advice) to go. In July, 1842, there began a correspondence, talking of conditions, and of the possibility of my going. It was then that Lady Byron would allow me £150 per annum for my maintenance, besides paying the wages of a lady's-maid that she and Lady Lovelace had engaged for me months before, and that she would let me have a small allowance. On being engaged for my service, she mentioned her particular desire of being with a lady whose conduct had ever been irreproachable. This appeared so strong a wish on her part, that I could not express, and after a short time I told her what I could not but have suspected, from all she was a witness of, that she had better avail herself of the opportunity of quitting me, as my life and past history were not such as she would wish. She thanked me for the truth, and said she would have her devotion under all circumstances. I informed Lady Byron of my belief that it would be impossible for me to live where she proposed, at Hyeres, for £150 per annum; that I would endeavor to live at home, and that I would not part, suffer poverty and privation, and that whatever sum in addition (to the £150) should be necessary for my health and Marie's education, I should endeavor to procure in some other way. To this she answered, "How can you suppose I will ever let you do so? I have assured me of her affection by words, and of her unmerited and unjust mistrust—by her actions, and by every arrangement she made for me, which seemed to me most ingeniously painful to her. I should do better to have her paid to the maid, and that she should expect to receive from her an account of the way in which the money was spent. This it was agreed my servant should do. Lady Byron sent me £40 to travel to Hyeres, with recommending me to travel in the most quiet way I could. I was anxious not to judge hastily, but trusted that when Lady Byron's health improved (she was ill) she would be more just and reasonable. And also was ill, and asked Lady Byron, as my maid-servant, to send me to the Continent, and to have a man-servant to travel with me. Lady Byron consented, and my maid's husband, being out of place, was fixed upon. After consultation with Ada and Lord Lovelace, it was decided that I should leave, and Ada pay a misce and I should have a man-servant to watch over and protect me, assuring me her mother was deeply attached to me. I trusted to this, and left England on Friday evening, the 22d of July, 1842. And partly in order to prove to her that I was not ungrateful, I was still, and on my maid's solicitation on account of their importance, in the event of my death, I left a box of letters and papers with Lady Noel Byron's housekeeper, to be given to Lady Byron on her return. There were places also, and an appointment to Ada, leaving me at 6 o'clock that evening, to be deposited with Lord Lovelace's papers at Ockham. The deed I had kept till then in my own possession, and intended doing so, fearing to let it again escape my hands. I should do better to have it so important to me. Lady Byron had asked me to, and by my promise made me, leave them to her by my will. And when she begged me, only a few days previously, never to mistrust her affection, I thought I should do better to have it so important to me. When she never acknowledged their right in any letter, I was still far from suspecting she would do what she is now doing—making her lawyer give evasive answers, and denying me what I entrusted with confidence to her.

[The concluding portion of Miss Leigh's narrative is not in her own handwriting, and appears to have been written by her dictation, and is by no means so clear, so consecutive, or so strong as the foregoing. It contains, however, facts which are possibly to be accounted for by Miss Leigh's ill-health, and the inattention, or inexperience in composition, of her amanuensis.]

I travelled as expeditiously as my health allowed—and much more so—on arriving at Lyons, there was not money enough to pay the boat, etc.; and from the arrangements, much difficulty in obtaining a doctor from Lyons, and in consequence of three days we proceeded on our journey, but on arriving at Hyeres we were again without (money). I wrote, and my maid also wrote, as she had been requested to do, in case of increased illness; and Lady Byron was informed of our situation, and of the various expenses and probabilities of such. She approved, and continued her terms of affection as ever; engaged to neglect no expenses for my health; wished me to get masters for Marie's education; and to have her sent to the Continent, and I said she would send me books from England. I insisted most minutely on expense,† and endeavored most earnestly to avoid all. And when Lady Byron suggested my moving elsewhere to a doctor, I wrote, and said I was contented—that of approaching Toulon. To conceal in all her wishes, a country-house about three quarters of a league from Toulon was hired. I wrote, as well as my man-servant—sending the accounts monthly, with every detail. She (Lady Byron) was so good as to send me a letter concerning the rent of the house, of which I told my man-servant, who was responsible, and whom Lady Byron wished to stay with me till further notice. He got certificates as to the rent, being, I thought, reasonable, from the Marquis Hyeres, and from the Countess Marquis residing near. These satisfied Lady Byron, or seemed to do so, and thought she always said (the man-servant) was to go, her non-payment of what she had agreed to give him prevented him from doing so. I sent her the monthly expenses (accounts) from him; and though he never complied with all her wishes that I should incur expense, and deprived myself and child of all I possibly could, it was not possible that they should not exceed £150 a year. She expressed her satisfaction, and sent me, without money, from all being spent, and much owing, before any more arrived. But all this she was well aware of, through her own arrangements, of knowing how the money was spent, and all was in her power. In December she expressed dissatisfaction, and a desire of rendering all the money arrangements as vexatious as possible to her, as may be seen in her correspondence. She had received receipts from me of all the sums that had been paid, being, I thought, reasonable, from the Marquis Hyeres, and from the Countess Marquis residing near. These satisfied Lady Byron, or seemed to do so, and thought she always said (the man-servant) was to go, her non-payment of what she had agreed to give him prevented him from doing so. 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[illegible]

relative for advice and assistance. The copy of this letter was enclosed to Mr. S., by Captain De B. and the following note, undated, but bearing the postmark of August 28, 1843—

"Enclosed I send you a copy of what Miss Leigh yesterday wrote in answer to an enclosure of £10 from the Duke of Leeds. He is the only one who has answered. I have been somewhat occupied, or I would have called."

"Miss Leigh has been unwell, I presume from over-anxiety. Should anything transpire I will write or send to you. Very truly yours,"

"J. DE B." "P. S. It is entirely her own composition. I do not like it."

"No. 8, CHURCH ROW, OLD ST. PANCRAS, Aug. 28, 1843.—Your Grace—I beg most gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of the £10 you sent for the relief of my distress; and, although feeling that the object of your kindness cannot be deemed presuming or intrusive, the hard pressure of misery drives me to do that for which I solicited your Grace's permission.

"Ruined at the age of fifteen by the imprudence of those who trusted in their promise whose duty it was to watch over and protect me (and from whom I alone freed myself three years since), I unexpectedly found kindness and protection for myself and child, from one whose subsequent conduct put me under obligations too deep to trust him as far as I did, gratefully and sincerely, and in giving what she sought—I had to give—unbounded confidence; after giving more than I had long hoped to receive from those near me—affection and sympathy to take its place in the love I possessed—a taste for the delicacies, etc., my broken health required, and which money alone can procure, and teaching me all I had yet to learn of the infancy of the mother, once so dearly loved, and now grown up to ladyhood, to adorn herself, impress on me the claims I had (which I did not seek) to be enabled to live according to the rank in life to which I was born, I found myself placed by her in a position not to be endured, dependent on servants, even whom I could not control, unable to do what was necessary for my health, and refused what my child's education required; and, in the endeavors I have made to save myself from such have found devastation.

"With Mary Berryer, Captain De B. and Mr. S.—who have kindly endeavored to help me—the first by addressing Lady Byron on my behalf, the others in becoming the channels of communication denied directly to me—have been met by distrust, and I have been asked pardon, if I had displeased or pained by the step I had taken, to alter the position in which I had been placed. She who had shown me kindness, who had called me 'her other child,' and who had wished to share her point she might err, 'never to mistrust her affection, which could not change, has now unhappily accused me of what has been proved untrue, and detained, and still detains, on false pretences, and I am left to suffer from her scorn, disdain, and drives me to what I now do, to ask aid and protection from all. The only resource for existence I have is a deed of appointment for £3000, payable at the death of Lady Byron and my mother, the late Captain De B. and his wife, in real property she received from my father—and her brother—Lord Byron. For nearly three months I have been indebted for the existence of myself and child to the kindness of those on whom I have no claim, and who, I am told, are not to be trusted, and who have cast me on the world without home or protection would have me.

"The distance at which your Grace is, renders it difficult as how I should be anxious, to give all to me, while in every other respect, and which is known to those alike respected and respectable. I must beg your Grace's indulgence to what I now write, as I am suffering from the effects of over-exertion, not to deny me the protection of your Grace, but I am to your Grace, I can only beg you to consider my desolate and destitute position, and its causes, and subscribe myself most gratefully

"Your Grace's obedient humble servant,

"E. M. LEIGH."

"His Grace the Duke of Leeds,
"Mar Lodge, Braemar, N. B."

Before writing this letter to the Duke of Leeds, and making application to various other persons, I wrote to my mother, and communicated with or see her mother. In a note from Captain De B. to Mr. S., dated the 15th August, the former states—"Miss Leigh has not received any answer to any of her notes forwarded to me, with the exception of her mother's, but was refused. 'Not at home!' Miss Leigh has a wish to forward the enclosed (three letters); perhaps you may be able to put the addresses upon them. Should anything transpire, I will lose no time in letting you know. If I receive no word of approval of the letter to Mr. Leigh, retain it."

A memorandum on the back of Captain De B.'s note, dated August 16, shows that its receipt was acknowledged in the following terms next day:

"We read your note with Miss Leigh's three enclosures. We (Mr. S.—and his partner) think that to Mrs. Leigh is very proper and natural under the circumstances; but is it not somewhat premature? and a day or two may make an important change, and we shall care to make another, and we will answer to the letters already sent. We retain them till we see or hear from you."

Two of the letters were addressed to Miss Leigh's cousins, the Hon. D'Arcy Osborne, and the Hon. Frederick Osborne, both of No. 8, CHURCH ROW, ST. PANCRAS, AUG. 14, 1843.—When I was a happy child, you used to be kind and good-natured to me. Now that I am in suffering and misery, will you refuse me what I am compelled to ask all who will give it to me, and what I need, and which I have no right to expect? Will you let me tell you why I am so?"

"Your cousin,

"ELIZABETH MEDORA LEIGH."

To the Hon. William Osborne.

"8 Church Row, St. Pancras, Aug. 14, 1843.—I am so miserable, though so many long years have gone by since we met, you will not have forgotten, or refuse to befriend, one who were once fond of; destitute, alone in the world, forced to seek aid and protection from all who give aid, and protection, and laugh at my misfortune! Why I am so, and then accord me the help and assistance that are in your power. If I am mistaken in so thinking, forgive this application from
"Your cousin,

"ELIZABETH MEDORA LEIGH."

The third letter, the one to Mr. Leigh, is the most interesting, and contains in this unhappy case, and must have been written under deep feelings of irritation, caused by her mother's refusal to see her or admit her into her house. It is of such a nature, that after mature deliberation, and reflection, and the expedient of never excluding it from these pages.

Whether Mrs. Leigh were innocent of the charge against her—which we believe and shall attempt to prove hereafter—or guilty, of which there is no evidence, it was not less cruel, and could have any effect in softening her heart towards her daughter. That it was actually sent to her appears from a letter of Captain De B. to Mr. S.—dated more than five weeks afterwards:

"August 29, 1843.—Dear Sir—Miss Leigh has not received any answer to her letter to her mother, and she now wishes to know if she shall make application to Sir R. Bowyer, or a private secretary, to accompany her, but that, unless asked for by Sir Frederick, I had no wish for my name going abroad."

"She seems to say that both you and me (as I promised to go with her) Sir Frederick (as it were) has given us the chance. If so, pray let me know. Her hopes to answers, as she expected, have turned out, as I said, blanks."

"I shall expect a few lines from you to-morrow."

correspondence. It would appear from Captain De B's previous communication that it was in contemplation to ask the aid of a police magistrate, with what distinct object it is now impossible to ascertain, though it may not unreasonably be suspected that it had reference to the missing box of family papers—

"My Dear Sir,—I called on Mr. S— on Friday morning, being anxious that my affairs should terminate; and he begged that I should write and ask you to name the time when it would be convenient for me to see and confer with you as to the steps to be taken, which I will do at your office.

"I am, my dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

"ELIZABETH MEDORA LEIGH.

"Thursday, October 13, 1843.

"Address Madame Aubin, 18, Aldenham Terrace, Old St., Pancras Road."

Thus ends the correspondence that came into the possession of the friends and correspondents of Captain De B—, in connection with Miss Leigh. It does not appear that the threatened application to Bow street was ever made, and that any further reconciliation between Miss Leigh and Lady Byron was ever effected. Upon this subject Mr. S—, in a letter dated the 24th of September, 1869, twenty-six years after the time in which these events occurred, and thirty-five years after the death of Lord Byron, writes—"I did not succeed in my endeavors, and my failure is somewhat contradictory of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's statement, that Lady Byron never felt tender, never gave over in motherly tenderness towards the lady whom she called the 'wild son.' I ascertained at the same time (1843), that the so-called 'secret' was known to very many persons besides Dr. Lushington and Sir George Stephen, and I do not know how to reconcile this fact with the 'dignified and majestic silence' which she claimed as a merit for Lady Byron; for if she did not impart the knowledge, who else can have done so?"

It is possible, however, although the circumstances may never have come to the knowledge of Captain De B— or Mr. S—, that at some after-time, when Miss Leigh passed out of their vision, she may have agreed to all the terms demanded of her by Lady Byron, been restored to her favor and protection, and ended her days in the receipt of her husband's fortune.

However that may be, Miss Leigh, with her sins, her sorrows, and her sufferings, and bearing with her her little daughter Marie, disappeared at the close of the year 1843, from the great heart of the "wild son of London," and soon afterwards sank into that beneficent grave, where "the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest."

It will be seen that Lady Byron told to this unhappy "child of sin" the same story that she did to Mrs. Stowe, though why, even admitting that it was true, a woman of any delicacy of feeling could have made such a revelation, if in her right mind, it is difficult to understand. The charge against Lord Byron and Mrs. Leigh here, as elsewhere, rests upon the word of Lady Byron, while all the substantial proofs are against her assertion. There is nothing in the sad story we now publish to prove that Medora was other than the legitimate daughter of Mrs. Leigh, although her autobiography makes an important addition to the history of this remarkable affair.

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